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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1938.

PRESTON:

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***To the Chairman and Members of the
Preston Rural District Council.***

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Preston Rural District during the year ended on the 31st December, 1938.

Following my usual custom I give a few prefatory remarks drawing attention to the principal vital statistics of the year and referring to one or two points of special interest.

The report closely follows the directions of the Ministry of Health contained in their Circular No. 1728, dated 25th October, 1938.

The various sections of this Report record the present position and the progress made in the public health services of the Rural District. I think it can be truthfully stated that a steady improvement in the health of the inhabitants at large is taking place. The environmental conditions generally are showing a steady advance and there are constant developments in the public health and social services.

Increased duties and responsibilities are imposed on the Public Health authorities and their officials. From year to year the specialist services, provided either by the National, County or Local authorities, are extended and developed and can be said to be available for the whole community.

I refer below to the main points of the vital statistics, &c. :

Population.—Estimated by the Registrar General at 34,420 shows an increase of 1,060 on the preceding year's estimate.

Births.—The birth-rate for the Rural District for 1938 is 14·9 per 1000 of the estimated population, a reduction of 0·5 per 1000 on the rate for 1937, but is 1·1 per 1000 above the last five years' average. The rate is now exactly one-half that of fifty years ago.

Deaths.—The general death-rate for the year under report is 9·6 per 1000 of the population and is the *lowest recorded* for the Rural District excepting the year 1934 when it was 9·2 ; and 1932 and 1924 when the rate was exactly the same as in 1938.

Infant Mortality.—A very favourable rate is recorded—44 per 1000 live births, against a rate of 63 in the previous year and an average of 50 for the last five years. Here also the death-rate is the *lowest on record* excepting 1934 when the rate was 38, and 1931 when it was 44. It may be of interest to state that in the 'nineties' the infant mortality rate for the rural area was about 140 per 1000 births.

In conclusion may I be permitted to say that all through the long years of my service I have had reason to be grateful for the generous kindness and courtesy extended to me at all times by the Council. I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to discharge the duties devolving upon me, and the ready acceptance of those efforts by the Council has always been a matter of great satisfaction to me.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

June, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics.

Statistics and General Social Conditions of the Area.

- (1) Area in acres—50,469.
- (2) Population (Census 1931) 29,750.
- (3) Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938—34,420.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) 7,138.
- (5) Do. End of 1938, according to Rate Books, 9,515.
- (6) Rateable value—£220,370.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate, £869.

The social conditions generally do not alter, nor do the occupations of the resident population. There are a few cotton mills left. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions, and there is considerable industry in market gardening. I have no definite figures as to unemployment in the Rural District, but in the old cotton mill areas there must be many out of work. There is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health of adults and children. The employment available is of a healthy character.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.		M.		F.
Live Births	Legitimate	504	...	268	...	236
	Illegitimate	12	...	8	...	4
	Total ...	<u>516</u>	...	<u>276</u>	...	<u>240</u>

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—14·9

Still Births 20 ... 9 ... 11

Rate per 1000 Total (live and still) Births—37.

Deaths 332 ... 167 ... 165

Crude death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, †9·6

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—		Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) Births.	
Puerperal sepsis	...	1	...	1·86
Other puerperal causes	...	—	...	—
Total	...	1	...	1·86

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	44
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	45
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—39

„	Measles (all ages)—1
„	Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.
„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—Nil.

Population—34,420	Per 1000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate.		Rate of Deaths under One Year Per 1000 Live Births.
	Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Per 1000 Live Births.	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	
Mean of 5 years							
1933—1937	13·8	10·5	0·34	1·37	4·79	4·58	50
1937	15·4	10·9	0·32	1·04	7·73	7·44	63
1938	14·9	†9·6	0·23	1·42	1·93	1·86	44
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on							
Five Years' Average	+1·1	—0·9	—0·11	+0·05	—2·86	—2·72	—6
1933—1937							
Previous Year	—0·5	—1·3	—0·09	+0·38	—5·80	—5·58	—19

† 1938 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0·96) = 9·2 per 1,000.

Births and Deaths.

Live Births—The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for “inward” and “outward” transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the rural area during the year 1938 numbered 516 (males 276, females 240), one less than in the year 1937.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated population corresponds to 14·9 per 1000. Last year the rate was 15·4 and the mean for the five years 1933-1937 was 13·8; therefore the rate for the year under report was lower than that of 1937 by 0·5 per 1,000 of the population, and 1·1 per 1,000 in excess of the five years average.

Looking back through old records I find the district birth-rate in the year 1882 was 37·98 and in 1890 29·67 per 1000 of the population.

The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1938 was 15·1 per 1000 of the population; still-birth rate 0·60 per 1000.

Still Births.—Twenty still births were registered in the Rural District (males 9, females 11), equal to a rate of 37 per 1000 live and still births.

Deaths—The Registrar-General reports that the net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1938 were 332 (males 167, females 165). This total includes 99 deaths known as “inward transfers,” i.e. of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and is exclusive of 206 deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of persons not belonging to the Rural District. Last year the corrected number of deaths was 366, 344 in 1936, 324 in 1935, 287 in 1934, 366 in 1933, 298 in 1932, 341 in 1931, 295 in 1930, 336 in 1929 and 300 in 1928.

The following tabulated statement supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of death, distinguishing males and females:—

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females.
All Causes	.....	.....	167	165
Paratyphoid Fever	.....	.....	...	...
Measles	.....	.....	...	1
Diphtheria	.....	.....	...	1
Influenza	.....	.....	1	2
Respiratory tuberculosis	.....	.....	4	4
Other tuberculosis	.....	.....	3	1
Syphilis	.....	.....	...	1
General paralysis of insane, etc.	.....	.....	1	...
Cancer	.....	.....	20	29
Diabetes	.....	.....	2	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	.....	.....	4	10
Heart disease	.....	.....	59	52
Other circulatory diseases	.....	.....	11	5
Bronchitis	.....	.....	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	.....	.....	7	6
Other respiratory diseases	.....	.....	2	...
Peptic ulcer	.....	.....	1	...
Appendicitis	.....	.....	2	...
Other liver diseases	.....	.....	...	2
Other digestive diseases	.....	.....	3	1
Puerperal sepsis	.....	.....	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	.....	.....	4	5
Congenital causes, &c.	.....	.....	9	9
Senility	.....	.....	5	1
Suicide	.....	.....	4	1
Other violence	.....	.....	10	7
Other defined diseases	.....	.....	13	13
Deaths of infants {	Total	.....	10	13
under 1 year {	Legitimate	.....	10	13
	Illegitimate	.....	...	...
Live Births {	Total	.....	276	240
	Legitimate	.....	268	236
	Illegitimate	.....	8	4
Still Births {	Total	.....	9	11
	Legitimate	.....	9	11
	Illegitimate	.....	...	...
Resident Population	.....	.....	34,420	

The death-rate of the Rural District, calculated on a population of 34,420 is 9·6 per 1000. Last year the death-rate was 10·9, 10·6 in 1936, 10·3 in 1935, 9·2 in 1934, 11·5 in 1933, 9·6 in 1932, 11·3 in 1931, 10·1 in 1930, and 12·0 in 1929. The average death-rate for the five years, 1933-1937 was 10·5. Reference to the statistics of the district extending over a long period shows that the Rural District death-rate in 1891 was 18·55 per 1000 and in 1900 19·0, or almost double the rate of the year under report.

This year the Registrar-General has again supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparable from the mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. This comparability factor for the Preston Rural District for 1937, is 0·96.

The adjusted death-rate for the Rural District, using this comparability factor, is 9·2.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1938 was 11·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population, 11·7 for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, and 11·0 for the 148 Smaller Towns.

The following statement shows the number of male and female births and deaths in the four sub-districts :—

Sub-District.	Live Births.			Deaths.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Penwortham	80	77	157	97	93	190
Walton	2	3	5	2	1	3
Amounderness	26	38	64	44	54	98
Longridge	6	9	15	24	17	41
Other Births—inward transfers	162	113	275	...	...	...
Whole District	276	240	516	167	165	332

The following table, compiled from the local Registrar's monthly returns, duly corrected for inward and outward

transfers, shows the number of births and deaths registered in each township during the year 1938, distinguishing males and females, and for comparison, the totals of the four preceding years are also given :—

Sub-District.	Townships.			Live Births during 1938.			Deaths during 1938.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Longridge. Amonderness. Walton-le-Dale. Penwortham.	{	Farington ... ..	...	14	10	24	19	22	41
		Longton ... ..	...	20	18	38	24	15	39
		Much Hoole ... ..	...	3	4	7	5	5	10
		Little Hoole ... ..	...	3	3	6	1	1	2
		Hutton ... ..	...	6	4	10	4	4	8
		Penwortham ... ..	...	34	38	72	44	46	90
		Samlesbury ... ..	...	2	3	5	2	1	3
		Cuerdale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lea ... ..	...	9	9	18	13	18	31
		Goosnargh ... ..	...	2	8	10	11	10	21
		Broughton ... ..	...	...	5	5	4	6	10
		Barton ... ..	...	5	6	11	3	9	12
		Haighton ... ..	...	1	2	3	...	1	1
		Woodplumpton ... ..	...	7	5	12	10	5	15
		* Whittingham ... ..	...	2	3	5	3	5	8
		† Ribchester ... ..	...	3	1	4	16	9	25
		Dutton ... ..	...	...	1	1	1	1	2
		Hothersall ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Grimsargh ... ..	...	3	7	10	7	7	14
		Other Births—including inward transfers, Townships not stated			...	162	113	275	...
† 1938 Totals...			...	276	240	516	167	165	332
1937 „ ... ..			...	253	264	517	192	174	366
1936 „ ... ..			...	238	199	437	166	178	344
1935 „ ... ..			...	224	229	453	161	163	324
1934 „ ... ..			...	197	196	393	125	162	287

* Excluding deaths in Whittingham Mental Hospital of persons not belonging to District.

† Excluding deaths in Ribchester Institution of persons not belonging to District.

‡ Excluding 206 deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of persons *not* belonging to the Rural District, and including 99 deaths which took place outside the District among persons belonging thereto.

Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

Eight deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (Phthisis) males 4, females 4, corresponding to a death-rate of 0·23 per 1000 of the population. Last year this rate was 0·32, 0·33 in 1936, 0·41 in 1935, 0·12 in 1934, 0·53 in 1933, 0·19 in 1932, 0·39 in 1931 and 0·48 in 1930.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Influenza.

Bronchitis in 1938 contributed 6 deaths, against 8 deaths last year and 9 in 1936.

Pneumonia (all forms) gave rise to 13 deaths, ten less than last year.

Influenza caused only 3 deaths, against 15 last year.

Cancer.

During 1938 there were 49 deaths (20 males, 29 females) ascribed to cancer, 14 more than in 1937. There were 42 deaths in 1936, 44 in 1935, 49 in 1934, 50 in 1933, 28 in 1932, 28 in 1931 and 31 in 1930. The distribution in the sub-districts in 1938 was—Penwortham 28, Walton 0, Amounderness 16, Longridge 5. The cancer death-rate in 1938 was 1·42 against 1·04 in 1937, 1·29 in 1936, 1·39 in 1935, 1·58 in 1934, 1·57 in 1933, 0·90 in 1932, 0·93 in 1931, 1·06 in 1930, and a mean-rate of 1·37 for the five years 1933-1937.

Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 23 (males 10, females 13), ten less than last year; in 1936 and 1935 the infant deaths numbered 22, 15 in 1934, 22 in 1933, 23 in 1932, 19 in 1931 and 29 in 1930,

Fourteen of the infant deaths in 1938 were due to congenital debility, malformation, or premature birth, representing over 60 per cent. of the total infant deaths.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 44 as compared with a rate of 63 per 1,000 births in 1937, 50 in 1936, 48 in 1935, 38 in 1934, 51 in 1933, 58 in 1932, 44 in 1931, and 76 in 1930.

The average for the five years 1933-37 was 50.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1938 was 53.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1938 of infants at stated age periods:—

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks	4 weeks— 3 months.	3-6 months	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under one year.
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, &c. ...	11	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	14
Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	6
Other causes ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Totals	15	...	...	...	6	...	1	1	23

Net Live Births in the year	{	legitimate 504	} 516	Net Infant Deaths in the year	{	legitimate 23	} 23
		illegitimate 12					

Maternal Mortality.

Under the heading of maternal mortality only one death was recorded in the rural district in the year 1938—puerperal sepsis, giving a mortality rate, based on live and still-births, of 1·86 per thousand, as compared with a rate of 7·44 last year. The average rate for the five years 1933-37 was 4·58.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales in 1938 was 2·97.

Rates of this character, calculated for small areas, are sometimes rather fallacious and one or two fatalities add very considerably to the local death-rate. In the last nine years, only 19 maternal deaths have been recorded in the rural district.

The Midwives Act, 1936.

Under the provisions of the above Act, the Lancashire County Council is required to provide, either directly, or by arrangement, a domiciliary service of whole-time salaried midwives adequate for the needs of its area. The midwives so employed are available for attendance on patients in their own homes either as midwives or as maternity nurses during childbirth and from time to time during the fourteen days immediately after childbirth.

The main purpose of the Act is to improve the standard of domiciliary midwifery in England and Wales as an important step in the improvement of the maternity services and in the campaign for reducing maternal mortality. At the same time, the whole status of the midwifery profession will be raised by providing adequate salaries and secure prospects for those midwives who enter the new service and by compensating those who retire within a specified period and so reducing the present overcrowding in the ranks of the profession. The Act also provides for the prohibition of maternity nursing by unqualified persons in any area by order of the Minister as soon as he is satisfied that the new service in that area is adequate. In addition provision is made for the periodical attendance at post-certificate courses of all practising midwives.

The Lancashire County Council has provided a domiciliary midwifery service directly for the parishes of Farington, Penwortham, Longton, Hutton, Little Hoole and Much Hoole in the Preston Rural area. The particulars of the salaried midwives appointed to serve this area are given below :—

Mrs. C. Houghton, S.C.M., S.R.N.,	Telephone No.
“ Longcroft House,”	Longton 49.
Hall Carr Lane Longton.	

Mrs. M. L. E. Moore, S.C.M., S.R.N.,	Telephone No.
16 Lark Avenue, Penwortham.	Preston 83434.

Reliefs in cases of sickness or during off duty and holiday time are provided from adjoining districts.

In addition to providing a service directly for the above parishes an Agreement was made between the Lancashire County Council and the Longton Nursing Association under which the Association agreed to provide a domiciliary midwifery service when called upon for the parishes of Longton, Hutton, Little Hoole and Much Hoole.

A domiciliary service has been provided for the remaining parishes in the Rural district by the Lancashire County Council under arrangements made with District Nursing Associations. Details are here given :—

District Nursing Association.	Area to be served.	Particulars of Nurse.
Bilsborrow	- Barton - Woodplumpton - Goosnargh (part)	Mrs. A. I. Talbot, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., "Glen Lea," Station Lane, Barton. (phone. Broughton 190.)
Longridge	- Goosnargh (part) - Grimsargh - Haighton (part) - Whittingham - Dutton - Ribchester - Hothersall	Miss N. M. Greenleaf, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., 28 Preston Road, Longridge. (phone. Longridge 220.)
Broughton	- Haighton (part) - Broughton	Miss M. E. Johnson, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., "Brynville," Woodplumpton Road, Cadley, Nr. Preston. (phone. Preston 6368.)
Lea	- Lea	Miss E. Johnson, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., "Brynville," Woodplumpton Road, Cadley, Nr. Preston. (phone Preston 6368.)
Mellor, Balderstone and Samlesbury	Samlesbury - Cuerdale	- Miss I. F. Grundy, - Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., Nurse's Home, Branch Road, Mellor, Nr. Blackburn. (phone Mellor 313.)

The fees charged for the services of the County Council Midwives and the Nursing Association Midwives are £1 10s. when acting as midwife and £1 5s. when acting as maternity nurse, i.e., where a doctor is engaged. The fees are reduced by 10/- in the case of contributing members of the Nursing Associations. A fee of 10/- only is charged for attendance at miscarriages. The County Council Scheme provides for a remission of fees in necessitous cases.

I urge most earnestly every expectant mother, in the interest of her own health and that of the unborn babe, to seek, *early* in her pregnancy, *skilled advice*, either through her private medical adviser, or through the facilities now available under the maternity and child welfare services of the Public Health Authorities.

Specialist ante-natal clinics have been established by the County Council in various parts of the County area and at many of the Public Institutions. In this neighbourhood County Clinics exist at Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Longridge and Kirkham, and similar facilities are available at the Preston and County of Lancaster Royal Infirmary, and at the Sharoe Green Hospital. Particulars as to the days and hours of these clinics may be obtained from the County Health Visitors or from the Public Health Officers of the district.

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health—Charles J. Trimble.

Sanitary Inspectors. The present organisation of the Sanitary Department is as follows :—

Chief Sanitary Inspector—Harry Collier.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—Sydney C. Whitehead and
James F. Hayhurst.

As stated above, there are three Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Collier occupying the position of Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer, whilst the two remaining have assigned to them half the Rural area, which is divided by the River Ribble, North and South, and for which each Inspector has full control for all duties pertaining to this office as set out in the Sanitary Inspectors' Order.

In addition to supervising the work carried out by the two additional Inspectors, Mr. Collier has charge of the following—New Buildings, Parks and Playing Fields, Water, Sewage and Scavenging.

Acting under him is a Building Inspector, Water Inspector and General Foreman for Scavenging.

This organisation seems to work very well and is yielding what I consider to be very satisfactory results, giving an efficient service in the interests of the public health.

Veterinary Services—I am authorised to call in veterinary assistance when necessary, and advice and help from the County Council's Panel of Veterinary Surgeons can always be relied upon.

Vaccination.—The County Council has provided a Public Vaccinator for the townships south of the Ribble and three Vaccinators for the rural area north of the Ribble :—

Samlesbury	...Dr. D. J. Davies.
Cuerdale	
Barton	...Dr. R. Slater.
Broughton	
Lea	
Woodplumpton	
Dutton	...Dr. J. G. Lord.
Ribchester	
Hothersall	
Grimsargh	
Haighton	
Goosnargh	
Whittingham	
Ribchester Institution	
Farington	...Dr. S. Sharples.
Penwortham	
Much Hoole	
Little Hoole	
Longton	
Hutton	

Laboratory Facilities.—As heretofore, the well-equipped laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary is always available for any bacteriological and pathological work required by the rural authority. The examinations carried out there at my request during the year 1938 are set out as follows :—

Record and character of the examinations carried out in 1938 for the Rural District Council at the Pathological Laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary :—

Blood—Agglutination	...	..	...	9
Culture	...	...	...	2
Faeces—? Pathogenic organisms	...	...	...	80
Milk—B. Coli contents	...	...	..	46
? B. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	46
Pus—? Gonococci	...	...	...	2
Add culture	...	...	...	1
Sputum—? B. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	14
Swabs—? B. Diphtheria	...	.	...	71
? Haemolytic streptococci	...	...	...	18
? Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	7
Urine—? Pathogenic organisms	...	...	...	2
Water—Bacteriological	...	...	...	5
Total				303

For water analysis the County Council's Laboratory, now transferred from Liverpool to the County Offices, Preston, is available. Particulars of these and other water analyses are given under the heading of water supplies.

Ambulance Services.—Ambulance services are available for the rural district. For the greater part of the area the Preston Corporation's ambulance facilities, are, by arrangement, available, whilst for the outlying townships such as Ribchester, Dutton, etc., the Blackburn Corporation service can be called upon. For infectious diseases the necessary transport is provided by the Hospitals.

In December, the Council considered the question of the provision of an Ambulance to serve the Rural area, but it was decided that the matter be deferred and that enquiries be made as to whether the Preston Corporation and the Royal Infirmary would be prepared to give an efficient and complete ambulance service throughout the whole of the Preston Rural District, covering medical, surgical and accident stretcher cases, and, if so, upon what terms.

In addition to the above facilities, a Fire Tender, recently purchased, is convertible to an ambulance, and in extremely urgent cases of illness this vehicle will be available for conveying patients to hospital. Any such requests for this purpose should be made to the Fire Station, Leyland Road, Penwortham, and the charge for conveying persons residing within the Rural District of Preston (South of the Ribble area) will be 5s. For the conveyance of cases outside this area to hospital the charge will be 1/3 per mile.

The Council desire that this ambulance should *not* be called where private ambulances or other means are available, as it will be appreciated that this vehicle, although convertible to an ambulance, is primarily for use as a Fire Tender and as such has to be held in constant readiness, together with its driver, to deal with outbreaks of fire.

Nursing Assistance.—The services of the Lancashire County Nursing Association are available for the inhabitants of the Preston rural area as regards general nursing.

The Nursing Associations at Bilborrow, Broughton, Longton, Lea and Samlesbury also undertake midwifery nursing and in all these areas, owing to the operation of the County Council's midwifery scheme, this class of nursing will doubtless greatly increase. Practically all the District Nurses are now provided with motor cars.

The statement below, kindly supplied by the Superintendent of the County Nursing Association, shows the number of cases and visits paid by the Association's nurses during the year ending March, 1939 :—

District Nursing Association.	CASES.			Visits.	Car provided
	Midwif'ry	Maternity	General		
<i>Bilsborough, including Barton, Catforth and Woodplumpton</i> ...	24	5	228	3942	Yes.
<i>Broughton</i> ...	3	15	237	4139	Yes.
<i>Longton, including New Longton, Hutton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole, Whitestake</i> .	7	6	146	4116	Yes.
<i>Penwortham and Howick</i> ...	...	...	236	6037	Yes.
<i>Lea & District, including Ingol, Ashton (Rural)...</i>	12	16	245	3408	Yes.
<i>Mellor, Samlesbury and Cuerdale</i> ...	2	3	56	1340	Yes.
<i>Leyland & Farington : Farington</i> ...	...	...	24	447	No.
<i>Bamber Bridge : Farington</i> ...	...	...	27	363	Yes.
<i>Longridge : Dutton, Goosnargh, Grimsargh, Haighton, Hothersall, Ribchester Whittingham</i> ...	13	21	80	1450	Yes, Two.
	61	66	1279	25242	

County Council Nursing Services.—In addition to the above-mentioned service, the County Council Health Visitors and Tuberculosis Nurses carry out extensive visitations in the rural area. Below are given figures relating to the number of visits paid by the County Health Visitors in the rural area during the year 1938 :—

Catforth Child Welfare Centre.

The Centre is open on the first Monday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and is held in the Village Hall.

No. of times the Centre was open during the year... 12

No. of individual children attending :—

Under 1 year of age 31

From 1—2 years of age..... 19

Over 2 years of age 29

No. of attendances by children :—

Under 1 year of age 98

From 1—2 years of age..... 60

Over 2 years of age 80

No. of attendances by expectant mothers :—

No. of individual expectant mothers attending 5

No. of actual attendances..... 5

Home Visits.

(Infants under 1 year) :—

No. of first visits 626

No. of re-visits 1145

(Children, 1—5 years of age) :—

No. of visits 738

Ante-Natal Work (Expectant Mothers) :—

No. of first visits 63

No. of re-visits 30

Reports to County Medical Officer of Health :—

Re Insanitary conditions 1

Children Act, 1908, and Children and Young Persons Act, 1932 :—

No. of visits to cases under the above Acts..... 13

Other matters :—

No. of visits to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum 54

Maternity.—The County Council have arrangements with the Preston Royal Infirmary and the Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood, for the admission of maternity cases where the home surroundings are unsuitable for the confinement to take place there, or where there are medical or surgical reasons for hospital treatment. Any woman going into one of these Hospitals for her confinement may attend at the Hospital Ante-natal Clinic for expert advice. In-patient ante-natal treatment is also available for patients for whom this is considered necessary.

The Obstetrician on the staff of the Preston Royal Infirmary is available for consultation at the request of a General Practitioner for poor patients resident in the County Area adjacent to Preston.

Fresh milk and other forms of nourishment are supplied free of cost in necessitous cases to expectant and nursing mothers, as well as to young children.

Dentures are also supplied at reduced costs to expectant and nursing mothers.

Provision of milk for necessitous school-children.

The Lancashire Education Committee have adopted the sections of the Education Act, 1921, relating to the feeding of school-children. In the Preston rural district, necessitous school-children are being supplied with milk. The following show the quantity of milk supplied during the year 1938:—

Preston Rural District - 14,574 pints.

For Tuberculosis cases, or suspected cases, the County Council's medical and nursing staffs are always available, together with the County's sanatoria, hospitals and tuberculosis dispensaries.

Registered Nursing Homes.—There are two registered Nursing Homes in the rural area, one at Lea and one at New Longton.

Mrs. A. Green, "Simla House," Blackpool Road, Lea.

Miss M. Dugdale, "Claremont," Wham Lane, New Longton.

Certified Midwives.—There are 9 State certified midwives in practice in this area; 2 County Council midwives; 2 employed by Nursing Associations and 5 independent midwives.

In addition to the above list there are (1) a Joint Hospital for ordinary infectious diseases and (2) a Joint Hospital for isolation of Small Pox.

Mortuary.—No further steps have yet been taken in regard to the provision of a mortuary for the rural area.

Legislation in Force.

The after-named General Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., are in force. The dates at which these provisions became operative are stated :—

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Came into force 31st March, 1914.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Parts I, III, and IV. So far as they are applicable to a Rural District came into force 1st August, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22 to 33, comprised in Part II.

Sections 34 to 46, 48, 49, 50, comprised in Part III.

Sections 52 to 67, comprised in Part IV.

Part V, and Sections 93 and 95, comprised in Part X, came into force 22nd December, 1913.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, comprised in Part II.

Sections 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43 comprised in Part III, came into operation 16th March, 1926.

(a) Urban Powers under Section 154, Public Health Act, 1875, to be cited as the Preston Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1929, dated 26th March, 1929. Came into operation 22nd April, 1929.

(b) Urban Powers under the provisions of the Private Street Works Act, 1892, for Penwortham.

This Order may be cited as the Preston Rural (Urban Powers) Order, No. 2, 1929, dated 25th September, 1929, and came into operation 21st October, 1929.

Section 171, Public Health Act, 1875, incorporating Sections 32 and 33 Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to fires. Came into operation 12th Jan., 1925.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, January 1st, 1934, also Section 2 of the above Act.

The provision of Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, for the regulation of places ordinarily used for public dancing or music or other public entertainment of the like kind in the contributory places of Barton, Broughton Cuerdale, Dutton, Farington, Goosnargh, Haighton, Hother-sall, Hutton, Lea, Little Hoole, Longton, Much Hoole, Pen-wortham, Ribchester, Samlesbury, Whittingham, Wood-plumpton.

This Order came into force 29th July, 1935.

Smoke Nuisance.—The Rural District Council adopted Bye-Laws for the prevention of nuisance by the emission of black smoke which became operative on the 1st February, 1936.

New Legislation in 1938.

Set out below is a list of the main features of public health legislation, Circulars and Orders of 1938.

New Legislation (Public Health) in 1938.

Population (Statistics) Act, 1938.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.

Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act, 1938.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk (Extension and Amendment) Act, 1938.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board & General Powers) Act, 1938.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1938.

No. 32. Public Health (Nursing Homes Registration Forms) Regulations, dated January 21st, 1938.

No. 147. The Midwives (Certifying Hospitals and Institutions) Order, dated February 25th, 1938.

No. 216. The Housing Act, 1936 (Operation of Over-crowding Provisions) Order, dated March 16th, 1938.

No. 217. Milk and Dairies Amendment Order, dated March 15th, 1938.

No. 218. Milk (Special Designations) Amendment Order, dated March 15th, 1938.

No. 611. Factories. The Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, dated June 24th, 1938.

No. 654. Factories. The Protection of Eyes Regulations, dated July 5th, 1938.

No. 689. Midwives (Certifying Hospitals and Institutions) Order (No. 2), dated July 20th, 1938.

No. 1231. Housing Acts (Equalisation Account) Regulations, dated October 3rd, 1938.

Ministry of Health Publications.

Memos., Circulars, etc.

Circular 1674. Registration of Nursing Homes. February 4th, 1938.

Circular 1678. Midwives Act, 1936. March 9th, 1938.

Circular 1685. Agriculture Act, 1937, Part IV. Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders; Tuberculosis Order, 1938. March 22nd, 1938.

Circular 1693. Midwifery Training. April 12th, 1938.

Circular 1696. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938. April 23rd, 1938.

Circular 1697. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938. April 23rd, 1938.

Circular 1702. Departmental Committee on the Cost of Hospitals Final Report. May 18th, 1938.

Circular 1705. Maternal Mortality. Medical Practitioners called in by Midwives. June 13th, 1938.

Circular 1714. Midwives Act, 1936. July 29th, 1938.

Circular 1716. Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act, 1938. July 1st, 1938.

Circular 1755. Food and Drugs Act, 1938. December 15th, 1938.

Food Memorandum 197. Sale of Milk under Special Designations. Addendum. The Milk (Special Designations) Amendment Order, 1938, and Part IV of the Agriculture Act, 1937. April, 1938.

Hospitals and other Public Buildings, Departmental Committee on the cost of (Chairman, A. Maitland, M.P.) Final Report. February 2nd, 1938.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938. (Memo 212).

Housing, House Production, Slum Clearance. etc., England and Wales. Position at September 30th, 1937.

Inland Water Survey Committee. The Surface Water Year Book of Great Britain. 1935-36.

Rural Housing Manual (Housing Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.

Smallpox (Memo. 215/Med.) September, 1938.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The provision of public health services and organisation must of necessity vary in accord with local circumstances. Detailed information respecting the nature and scope of the local health arrangements are set out in the following pages. The local health organisation is, for a rural area, in my opinion, and speaking broadly, quite good. There are of course gaps which need filling and defects which need remedying, but on the whole I think the public health organisation and the services available will compare favourably with the average rural district.

Constant supervision is maintained, and in a rural area of 50,469 statute acres and a resident population of 34,420 in 19 different townships, many of which are now urban in character, is no small task.

Every section of public health work is kept under regular observation by the sanitary staff and myself; developments and extensions are constantly taking place in the interests of the health and welfare of the inhabitants.

The following paragraphs, together with the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report and the County Summary Form (both appended), deal with the various services and indicate the amount of work carried out during the year under report

Water Supplies.

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are :—

- (a) The Preston Corporation.
- (b) The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- (c) The Fylde Water Board.
- (d) The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests and analyses are periodically made. Results of analyses are set out hereafter.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood, and Preston water. I attach tables setting out the extent of these supplies. The Fylde Water Board are now distributing water in Barton, Woodplumpton, Broughton and Cottam. During 1938 14 new connections were made, and the number of houses supplied by the Board at the end of the year is shown below :—

Woodplumpton (including Catforth)	290	an increase of	1
Barton and Bartle	270	„	9
Cottam	67	„	—
Broughton	26	„	4
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	653		14

The here inserted tables give a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several fownships (1) North of the Ribble (2) South of the Ribble. Where houses are not receiving a laid on supply the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :—

Townships North of the Ribble.

Townships.				Houses supplied, 1938.	Number of Houses in Township, 1938.
Barton	...	...	...	210	269
Broughton	...	...	...	146	146
Goosnargh	...	...	...	112	292
Grimsargh	...	...	...	222	222
Lea.	...	...	...	1067	1097
Whittingham	...	...	...	†340	392
Haighton	...	...	...	60	66
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	421	486

† Does not include Whittingham Mental Hospital.

Townships.	Number of premises.		Houses and Farms supplied with water.	
	Farms.	Other Houses.	Farms.	Other Houses.
Ribchester ...	58	364	41	326
Hothersall ...	20	16	18	12
Total ...	78	380	59	338

Other connections—8 Clubs, Schools, etc., 6 watering troughs, 3 garages, 2 mills, 1 workshop, 4 public-houses, 1 Poor Law Institution and 1 store.

Townships South of the Ribble.

Townships.				Houses supplied, 1938.	No. of Inhab- ited Houses, 1938.
Penwortham	...	...	...	3157	3157
Hutton	...	...	...	351	351
Longton	...	...	...	1091	1091
Much Hoole	...	...	...	192	194
Little Hoole	...	...	...	194	194
Farington	...	..	...	1049	1049

Townships.	Gross No. of Houses in Township.	Gross No. of Farms.	Houses supplied with water.	Farms supplied.
Samlesbury ...	232	77	221	51
Cuerdale ...	3	6	2	6

Outside these figures, five public houses, two schools, one chapel, one sewage works and two paper works are supplied.

I find that the Fulwood Urban District has during the year under review, supplied water from their mains. New supplies in this area and within Fulwood's distributing area are as follows:—

Whittingham	3	Goosnargh	1
Grimsargh	10	Lea	22
Barton			1

The number of houses supplied with water during the year 1938 numbered 331, of which 207 were in Penwortham, 9 in Hutton, 87 in Lea, 18 in Farington, 8 in Longton, 1 in Much Hoole, 7 in Samlesbury, 3 in Ribchester, etc.

Extensions to water mains in 1938 were as under:—

Penwortham	-	1407	yards.
Hutton	-	684	„
Little Hoole	-	220	„
Farington	-	1072	„
Lea	-	397	„
Goosnargh	-	332	„
Longton	-	40	„

Total 4152 „

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 9,191.

Wells, etc.—The approximate number of dwelling houses which rely on wells, springs, streams, etc., is 324.

Analyses of Water Supplies.—I have been supplied with the following results of examinations of water supplies from the Preston Corporation, the Fylde Water Board and the Corporation of Manchester :—

PRESTON WATER.

Sample of Water, 2nd September, 1938.

			Parts per 100,000.
Total solid matter in solution	...	...	5.92
Oxygen required to oxidise	in 15 mins.		0.069
	in 3 hrs. ...		0.124
Ammonia	...	...	0.001
Ammonia from organic matter of distillation with alkaline permanganate			0.005
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	None
Combined Chlorine	...	...	1.05
Total hardness	...	...	2.5

Observations.

Reaction to Litmus—Neutral P.H. value 6.9.

The water has the characteristics of a very good soft upland surface water and is in every way suitable for drinking and all domestic purposes.

The sample was clear, faintly yellow and odourless. It contained only a minute trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris, diatoms, hydrated oxide of iron, and particles of siliceous matter.

City Analyst's Laboratories,

Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C.

FYLDE WATER.

Pathological Department,
Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Two samples of water, 20th September, 1938.

Bacterial colonies per c.c.

		B36·38.	B37·38.
Agar 37° C. 48 hours	...	1	1

Presumptive B. Coli.

Calculated number of organisms
of coli-aerogenes group per
100 c.c.

1 0

The calculation of coliforms is of those of true faecal
type, growing at 44° C.

J. B. Smith, Pathologist.

Results of Bacteriological Analysis.

Water	... ..	Filtered—ex Stocks Reservoir.
Where sample taken		Sample tap, Laboratory.
Date sample taken	...	17th Oct., 1938 (11-20 a.m.)
Sample taken by	...	H. Cottam.
Date test taken	..	17th Oct., 1938 (11-45 a.m.)
pH value of sample...		7·2.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar.		No. of colonies per m.l. of water.
In 3 days at 22° C.	...	2
In 2 days at 37° C.	...	0

Coli-aerogenes—Not found in	...	100 m.l.
Found in	...	—
Probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (Mc.Crady's tables)	...	0

MANCHESTER WATER.—Thirlmere Supply.

Results of Analysis.

Appearance	..	...	Bright and clear.
Suspended matter	...	...	Practically nil.
Odour at 100°F.	...	...	Practically nil.
Taste	...	...	Practically nil.
Colour in 2ft. tube	...	...	Only very slightly peaty, unusually good.
Parts per 100,000.			
Free from Saline Ammonia	...	...	·0014.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	·0102.
Nitrogen as Nitrites	..	...	Faint trace.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	·012.
Chlorine	...	...	·59.
Phosphates	...	...	Practically nil.
Iron	...	...	·03.
Copper, Lead and Zinc	...	...	Nil.
Total dissolved solids	...	...	4·0.
Reaction to Meythl Orange	...	...	Alkaline.
Reaction to Phenol Phthalein	...	...	Acid.
pH value	...	...	6·4.
Hardness (degrees)	grs. per gall.		
Temporary	...	...	·38.
Permanent	...	...	·74.
Total	...	...	1·12.

Remarks—This is a satisfactory sample for drinking purposes, and is free from mineral acid.

Bacteriological examination of four samples taken in October showed no coli aerogenes bacteria in 100 c.c. of water.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In five townships there are outfall works, viz : Farington, Penwortham, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house. The outfall works are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Extension of sewers during 1938 comprised 521 yards of 6 ins., and 1702 yards of 9 ins. Water-courses and ditches piped included 40 yards of 9 ins. pipes, 150 yards of 12 ins., 25 yards of 18 ins. and 230 yards of 36 ins.

Grimsargh.—Mr. H. B. Ward, Consulting Engineer, of Liverpool has completed the preparation of a scheme for this parish, which shortly will be submitted to the Ministry of Health. Negotiations have taken place in regard to the purchase of 5·3 acres of land at Wood Top Farm.

Lea.—Mr. H. B. Ward, Consulting Engineer, of Liverpool was called in to advise on the sewerage of this parish. He reported giving alternative methods of disposal, and is at present engaged in preparing a scheme.

Longton and Hutton, etc.—In December the question of a sewerage scheme for this area was again fully considered, and the Council expressed the opinion that the moment is not opportune for proceeding with the scheme in view of the present national financial situation. Earlier in the year enquiries were made from the Ministry of Health and the Lancashire County Council as to the amount of grants from those authorities towards the cost of the scheme.

I feel it my duty as the Council's adviser on matters appertaining to the health and welfare of the inhabitants of these areas to again refer to the danger arising from the unsewered state of these townships, particularly as the district concerned is becoming more urban in character. A petition from the local residents laid strong emphasis on the objectionable conditions produced by allowing sewage to flow untreated into a water-course and adjacent ditches. I wish again to impress upon the Council the necessity of providing at the earliest opportunity an efficient system of sewerage and sewage disposal for this part of the rural district. This is of the first importance.

Rivers and Streams.

The Joint Rivers Board has jurisdiction in regard to rivers and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1938 the following was the position in the rural district as regards sanitary conveniences :—

No. of Fresh water closets	...	...	6980
„ Pail closets	...	..	1095
„ Movable ashbins	...	...	7960
„ Privy middens	...	...	1198

The old bog closets and the pail closets exists mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas. For the Parish of Ribchester there is a definite scheme for the conversion of privy middens. In Farington and Penwortham, with the exception of a few minor details, the work of conversion is now complete. In 1938 pail conversions numbered 55 and 424 new W.C.'s were provided. During the last five years 704 pail closets have been converted. The Council contribute half the cost of such conversions.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging.

Seventeen parishes of the rural area are now scavenged ; all parishes have a weekly collection of pails ; 2 parishes have a weekly collection of bin refuse and 15 fortnightly. The work is carried out by direct labour. Refuse disposal is by means of controlled tipping ; 5 tips are in operation. During 1938 the Townships of Dutton, Goosnargh, Woodplumpton and Samlesbury were included in the public cleansing scheme.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's report which is printed as an appendix to this report again indicates that a vast amount of work was carried out. Inspections numbered 3062, re-inspections 1002 and other visits 1376. Notices served totalled 148 ; Sanitary defects dealt with numbered 288 ; disinfections after infectious diseases 109, etc. Other matters dealt with are referred to in the following paragraphs.

Bakehouses.—Frequent visits are paid to the 25 bakehouses on the Register ; these premises are on the whole kept clean. Twenty-five notices to hot limewash were served.

Slaughterhouses, twelve in number—2 registered, 10 licensed—were kept in good order. The amount of unsound food seized and destroyed is given later under the heading of Food Control.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 101 factories and workshops on the Register ; 53 inspections were made.

Canal Boats Act.—Four boats were inspected ; each complied in all respects with the regulations.

Anthrax.—Seven cases were notified, one each in Catforth, Grimsargh, Hutton, Little Hoole, Penwortham, Samlesbury and Whittingham.

Swine Fever.—Two cases were notified, both at Woodplumpton.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

Tents and vans were inspected and any necessary action taken under the Bye Laws of 1937.

Schools.

Elementary schools number 30. Some are in good condition, others fair. Water supplies, with a few exceptions, are from the public mains. As will be seen below some new schools are being erected.

I am indebted to the Director of Education for the following notes :—

Broughton-in-Preston.—An application has been received for the establishment of a Church of England Senior School at Broughton-in-Preston to accommodate the senior pupils from the Church of England schools at Broughton-in-Preston and the surrounding districts. This application was approved by the Education Committee in July, 1938.

Public notices of the intention to provide a new Church of England Senior School for about 200 children were issued by the proposers on the 2nd August, 1938, and the Board of Education in January, 1939, stated that the proposed school satisfies the conditions of the Education Act, 1936.

Consideration is now being given to the acquisition of a site upon which the new school could be erected.

Lea.—A site has been acquired on which a new Junior and Infants' Council School for this district can be erected.

Penwortham —(1) The question of the acquisition of a site upon which a new Senior Council School could be erected is under consideration.

(2) The Junior and Infants' Council School at Penwortham is in course of erection, the work having been commenced in September, 1938.

Farington.—The work in connection with the erection of the Junior and Infant's Council School at Farington was commenced in March, 1939. On the opening of this school, the Farington New School will be closed.

Town Planning.

The rural district of Preston is situate within the area of two Regional Town Planning Committees, Ribchester, Hothersall and Dutton being in the area of the North East (Region No. 1) Joint Town Planning Committee, and the remainder of the rural area is within the area of the Preston and District Joint Committee. Details of the action taken during the year are given in the Sanitary Inspectors' report.

Parks and Playing Fields.

Further activity has been displayed in this provision, and the following sites were officially opened :—

Barton	-	-	5	acres.
Broughton	-	-	5	„
Queensway	-	-	5	„
Farington Lodge	-	-	5.5	„

Additional sites have been acquired at Lea 16 acres, Grimsargh 12 acres, Penwortham Hall 18 acres, Longton West 6 acres, and Farington Lodge (additional) 5 acres. Negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of land at Penwortham (Cop Lane), Hutton and Woodplumpton. Further details are set out in the Sanitary Inspectors' report.

In my opinion the activity of the Council in the direction of providing playing spaces has been most commendable in the interest of the health of the child life of the districts concerned. It has taught the child how to play and develop itself, and has taken it away from our dangerous roads.

Housing.

Private enterprise continued to supply the houses needed for the population. 369 new houses were erected in 1938, compared with 478 in the preceding year. Penwortham again headed the list with 208 (292 in 1937), Lea 92, Farington 18, Hutton 10, etc.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1938 :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) 369

- (i) By the Local Authority—Nil.
- (ii) By other Local Authorities—Nil.
- (iii) By other bodies and persons—369.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :

- (i) By the Local Authority—Nil.
- (ii) By other bodies or persons—Nil.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—153.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—237.
- (2) (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932—139.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—223.
- (3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—16.
- (4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—35.

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices—

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—23.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—12.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners—12.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—37.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after formal notices :—

- (a) By owners—Nil.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.
- (c).—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—3.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—7.
- (d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—Nil.

Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—52.
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein—52.
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein—331.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—Nil.
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—13.
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases—99.

Housing conditions are, for a rural area, generally good. There is no very marked shortage. At Longton a scheme is in hand for the erection of 18 houses to replace slum clearance and to remove overcrowding.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Systematic attention is given to the food supply of the rural area. Meat inspection, control of the milk supply, taking of samples for analysis, etc., are matters of almost daily routine.

Analysis of Samples.—This work is undertaken under the jurisdiction of the County Public Health Department, and the following Table shows the number and nature of the samples sent for analysis during 1938 :—

Township.	Milk.	Boiled Sweets.	Pepper.	Seidlitz Powder.	Lemon Curd.	Arrowroot.	Glycerine.	Olive Oil.	Yorkshire Relish.	Self Raising Flour.	Tapioca.	Custard Powder.	Black Treacle.	Soup Powder.	Bramble Jelly.	Tinned Tongue.	Mustard.	Raspberry Jam.	Totals.
Penwortham	21	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	31
Longton	7	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Much Hoole	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Howick	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hutton	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Farington	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	12
Goosnargh	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Barton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whittingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houghton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	56	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	75

One prosecution followed in a case of 15% deficiency of solids not fat; defendant to pay costs—£4 8s. 9d. Four other vendors were cautioned.

Milk Supply.—Much time and attention is devoted to this important subject with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. As I reported last year there has been a gradual improvement in the methods of milk production, in the grooming and cleaning of cattle, in the cleanliness of shippens and dairies, and in the milker's personal attire, &c. I have said before, and I repeat, no dirty milk need be put upon the market with reasonable care on the part of the producer, and milk of Grade A standard could and should be produced by every milk farmer.

Farms on the Rural Authority's Register number 647, and, in addition, there are 119 registered retail purveyors. Inspections under the Milk and Dairies Order numbered 779. The approximate number of cows in the rural district is 12,251.

Milk samples.—322 samples of milk were taken by your Sanitary Officers and subjected to the minit test; 233 were found clean, 41 very slightly contaminated, 30 slightly contaminated, and 18 were dirty. Fifty samples were taken from retailers and sent for examination for the presence of B Coli and tubercle bacilli: 48 were negative, 2 positive.

In addition to the above, the County Public Health Department received 48 notifications, in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural District. In accordance with Part IV of the Agricultural Act, 1937, the information was passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned. As a result of the investigations, 43 cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

Milk in Schools scheme.—The children attending 30 schools in the Preston Rural District received daily supplies of milk under the County scheme during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1938. The milk is obtained from sources approved by the County Council and all the supplies are examined each quarter for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Of the 76 samples of milk examined 3 disclosed the presence of tubercle bacilli and immediate steps were taken to have a veterinary inspection of the herds concerned. The milk from suspected animals was withheld from the general supply until the affected cows were discovered and slaughtered, and the supply again reported to be free of tubercle bacilli.

Meat Inspection, Slaughtering.—Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 315 notices of intention to slaughter were received, and the following animals were inspected:—cattle 460, sheep 1283, pigs 3250, goat 1.

Unsound Food.—The approximate weight of unsound food condemned as unfit for human consumption was 4 tons, 12 cwts. A detailed list is contained under the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Tuberculosis (Animals) Order, 1925.

During the year 104 cases were reported under this Order in the rural district, 29 by owners, 45 by the County Medical Officer's Department and 30 by the County Veterinary Surgeons. Ninety-seven animals were slaughtered. The post-mortem examinations showed: tuberculosis of the udder 48, tuberculous emaciation 24, other tubercular affections 24, giving tuberculous milk 1. The amount of compensation paid amounted to £420 17s. 6d., less salvage £160 15s. 10d.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The Tables on pages 41 and 42 detail the cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1938, specifying the number in each township.

Scarlet fever gave rise to 87 cases, against 66 in 1937 and 42 in 1936. Penwortham contributed 24, Longton 17, Farington 13, &c. Of the 87 cases, 73 were isolated in hospital.

Diphtheria caused only 8 cases (in 5 townships) against 11 and 29 in the two preceding years.

Enteric fever 6 cases—3 in Woodplumpton and 3 in Whittingham.

Bacillary Dysentery.—The outbreak of this disease, which was first reported in February, 1936, in Whittingham Mental Hospital, continued throughout 1938; 87 notifications were received.

Chicken Pox.—This disease ceased to be notifiable in the Rural District in July.

During the year two outbreaks of infectious disease were of special interest.

- (1) An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at Barton, and
- (2) Cases of Paratyphoid fever at Catforth.

Special Reports on these outbreaks were prepared and are included as Appendices to this Report on pages 46 and 51.

School closures owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases.—The undermentioned closures were made in 1938 by the Connty School Medical Officer:—

School.	Disease prevalent.	Period of closure.
Goosnargh, The Hill R.C.	Measles	Jan. 12-28 incl.
Broughton-in-Preston Grammar	Scarlet fever	April 12-14 incl.
Do.	Do.	May 30-June 3.

“ Notifiable ” Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.													Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all ages.	Years.											Total Deaths.	Total cases remov- ed to Hospi- tal.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.	
		Un- der 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65				65 & over
Scarlet Fever ...	87	...	4	1	5	7	27	20	6	13	3	1	...	...	73	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	8	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	8	...
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	3	...
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and influenzal)	13	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	2	2	3	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	6	3	...	1	...
Chicken-pox	18	1	...	...	2	...	11	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bacillary Dysentery ...	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	21	37	15	...	...	...
Totals	236	4	4	1	7	8	43	25	7	37	31	48	21	...	86	...

Above figures include the following cases notified from Whittingham Mental Hospital :—
Scarlet Fever 4 ; Typhoid Fever 3 ; Erysipelas 8 ; Ac. Pneumonia 9 ; Bacillary Dysentery 87.

The two tables show the distribution of infectious outbreaks and the number of cases in each Parish, and deal with the age limits and total numbers of different diseases indicating removals to hospital, and deaths if any :—

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1938, and for comparison the totals of the four preceding years are also given :—

Townships.		Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Diphtheria.		Erysipelas.	
		Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Farington	...	14	10	...	...	2	2	...	...
Longton	...	17	17	...	...	1	1	1	...
Much Hoole	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Hoole									
Hutton	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penwortham	...	24	21	...	...	2	2	2	...
Samlesbury	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	2	1
Goosnargh	...	4	4	...	...	1	1	...	...
Broughton	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	1	...
*Whittingham	...	7	3	3	..	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	...	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1938 Total	...	87	73	6	3	8	8	13	1
1937 Total	...	66	53	4	2	11	10	9	1
1936 Total	...	42	37	...	...	29	28	24	1
1935 Total	...	46	39	1	1	24	17	18	...
1934 Total	...	99	80	1	..	7	5	27	...

*Includes notifications from the Mental Hospital, Whittingham, but excludes, under heading of "cases removed." cases isolated in Whittingham Mental Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

The table below gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0— 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5 ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
5—10 ...	2	...	3	2	...	...	1	...
10—15 ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
15—20 ...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	...
20—25 ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
25—35 ...	3	4	1	2	1	...	...	...
35—45 ...	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
45—55 ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55—65 ...	2	1	...	1	1	1	...	1
65 and upwards	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Totals ...	18	7	8	8	4	4	3	1

The following numbers are submitted as representing the notified and ascertained cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the years :—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1930	33	21
1931	16	13
1932	26	12
1933	36	10
1934	25	18
1935	35	21
1936	40	10
1937	29	17
1938	25	16

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the administrative county is in the hands of the Lancashire County Council, who have a staff of consultant tuberculosis officers and tuberculosis health visitors working from a number of dispensaries in the County. Tuberculosis patients in the rural district are served by the County Branch Dispensary at 12 Walton's Parade, Preston. Full co-operation exists with the tuberculosis officers (Dr. G. H. Leigh and Dr. F. C. S. Bradbury) covering the area around Preston.

The following statement (supplied by the Central Tuberculosis Officer for the County) shows the action taken in regard to patients in the rural district during 1938 :—

No. of patients granted :—	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Sanatorium treatment	10	2	12
Pulmonary Hospital treatment..	10	...	10
General or Special Hospital treatment	5	9	14
Artificial light treatment	3	6	9
General dispensary supervision, with provision of special nourishment	12	6	18
General dispensary supervision or treatment	59	15	74
No. of patients under treatment on 31st December, 1938	85	34	119
The 119 patients under treatment were classified as under :—			
Pulmonary	54	5	59
Non-pulmonary	27	29	56
Combined (pulmonary and non-monary	4	...	4
No. of patients taken from register as recovered	6	2	8

Health Education.—The following lectures were arranged under the County Council's Public Health Educational Scheme :—

District.	1938	Type of Audience	Lecturer.	No.
Goosnargh	Jan. 21	Mixed	Miss Rhodes	32
Hutton	Mar. 14	Women's Institute	Miss Tipper	50*
† Whitechapel & Inglewhite	May 18	Do.	Miss Rhodes	40
Lea	Oct. 18	Do.	Miss Tipper	25*
Barton	Nov. 8	Do.	Miss Birchall	50

* Film Lecture. † Lecture included Social Hygiene Propaganda.

Air Raid Precautions.—Much time was devoted during the latter part of the year to the preparation of a Scheme on the lines suggested by the Chief Constable of the County. The training of personnel was proceeded with in matters such as first aid, nursing, and gas. The carrying out of an Air Raid Precautionary Scheme in a large and scattered Rural Area presents many difficulties, one of which is the recruiting of personnel around the centres from which the Ambulance services work.

The following Reports are appended :—

- (a) Report on outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at Barton.
- (b) Report on cases of Paratyphoid fever at Catforth.
- (c) Sanitary Inspector's.
- (d) Building Inspector's
- (e) Water Inspector's
- (f) Summary Form issued by the County Public Health Department.
- (g) Report on Factories and Workshops.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.

AN OUTBREAK OF SONNE DYSENTRY

BY

Colonel C. J. TRIMBLE, C.B., C.M.G., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health, Preston Rural District,

AND

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Chief Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Lancashire County Council.

On January 31, 1938, the bailiff of a farm in the Preston rural district gave information that some of the consumers of the milk produced there had been troubled with diarrhoea. The farm was visited forthwith and the following facts were elicited :

Particulars Concerning the Outbreak.

1. The outbreak had started on January 26, and was characterized by diarrhoea and slight abdominal pains. The stools were slimy, but no blood was visible.

2. The cases were few, were limited to the consumers of the milk produced at the farm, and not all the consumers were affected. Among those affected were the four farm employees concerned with the production and delivery of the milk.

3. The quantity of milk produced was eight gallons daily. Four gallons of this were distributed. The remaining four gallons were mixed with milk from other farms and made into cheese.

4. No person at the farm had previously suffered from a similar illness.

5. The water supply to the farm was from two sources : (a) A shallow well : this water was used for washing the milk utensils. (b) A spring : this water was used for drinking purposes.

6. There had been no addition to the cattle for more than a year.

It was clear that the outbreak was milk-borne, and after consideration of the main features it was thought to be probably due to the Sonne dysentery organism. The following steps were accordingly taken :

(a) Distribution of the milk was prohibited for a period of two weeks in order that investigations could be made. Use of the milk on the farm was not prohibited providing it was boiled before use. No action was taken with regard to the

cheese which had been made. The proportion of contaminated milk used in its manufacture was very small, and, further, it was known that conditions during "ripening" are so unfavourable that pathogenic organisms of the type under consideration do not survive.

(b) A list of consumers was obtained from the bailiff. (The list was subsequently shown to be incomplete, and this fact accounts for the delay in taking specimens in some cases.) Four of the households supplied with milk lived in the adjoining Garstang rural district. By arrangement with the medical officer of health of that district they were investigated by officers of the Preston rural district.

(c) Each household taking the milk was visited. Inquiries were made, specimens of faeces were taken where it was considered necessary, and instructions were given as to the disinfection of the hands, soiled clothing, and faeces of affected members.

(d) Samples of water from the well and spring were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination.

(e) All doctors practising within the area were notified of the occurrence of the outbreak.

The milk was supplied to twenty-four households, but only twelve were affected by the outbreak. Eighty-six persons were at risk, but only twenty-one became ill. The cases occurring on the first few days were—5, 3, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2.

It is interesting to speculate as to the number of cases that were "primary" and the number "secondary"—that is, the number which resulted from the consumption of milk that was in a contaminated state when received, and the number which were infected by members of their own households. It must be accepted that the cases occurring on January 26 and 27 were "primary" cases, and it is clear that those occurring on February 4 and 6 were "secondary," because the milk supply had been stopped on February 1. The position with regard to the cases which occurred from January 28 to February 1 inclusive is not clear: it is possible that all these were primary, and due to a common continuing source of infection. On the other hand, in all cases except one there was in the household an infected member of at least forty-eight hours standing, and in the exceptional case there was abundant opportunity for it to be infected secondarily. The possibility of "secondary" infection cannot therefore be dismissed. The advent of secondary cases indicates that the instructions given to members of affected households were not efficiently carried out.

The Water Supply.

Samples of water were taken from both the shallow well and the spring, and were submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination. The *bacteriological examination gave the following results* :

	Shallow Well (Washing Water)	Spring (Drinking Water)
Bacterial colonies per c.cm. :		
Agar 37° C., 48 hours.....	450	60
Presumptive <i>B. coli</i> :		
Calculated number of organisms of <i>coli-aerogenes</i> group per 100 c.cm.	1,600	70
<i>B. Dysenteriae</i> Sonne could not be isolated.		

The figures show that both samples were markedly polluted, and that they were unfit for domestic use. The *chemical examination* also showed that the water was unfit for use. The results are expressed in parts per 100,000.

	Shallow Well (Washing Water)	Spring (Drinking Water)
Total solids in solution	22·8	48·8
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate in 15 minutes	0·144	0·028
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate in 3 hours	0·291	0·058
Ammonia	0·015	0·004
Albuminoid ammonia	0·038	0·0165
Nitrogen as nitrates	0·18	0·008
Nitrogen as nitrites	0·0022	Nil
Combined chlorine.....	2·3	3·2

As soon as the significance of the results of the examination of the water was communicated to the farmer he ceased to use it. He is now using for all purposes wholesome water carried from another farm, and he is considering the question of having the public water supply laid on.

Results of Examination of Faeces.

Bacteriological examinations, the results of which are given in the accompanying table, confirmed the suspicion that the outbreak was due to the Sonne dysentery organism. Several features are worthy of notice. The general tendency in this outbreak was for the organism to be present in the faeces for seven or eight days after the attack, and to be absent after fourteen days. Exceptional behaviour, however, was shown by one or two cases. Thus Case 14, which began on January 30, was still excreting the organism on March 7, and Case 21, starting on February 6, was also excreting the organism on March 7. Case 15 (a milker) was exceptional, in that negative results on February 4, 9, 16 and 21 were followed by a positive result on February 28, and this by four negative results.

Table showing the Results of the Bacteriological Examination of Faeces.

	Initials.	Date of Onset.	Result of Examination of Faeces on										
			February.							March.		Apl.	Nov
			3	4	5	9	16	21	28	7	21	4	24
1	Mrs. P. ..	Jan. 26				Neg.	Neg.						
2	Miss C. ..	"	Pos.			"	"						Neg.
3	Miss R. W.	"				"	"						
4	Miss J. W...	"						Neg.					
5	Master A.W.	"				"	Pos.	"					"
6	W. S., jun. (Delivers milk)	Jan. 27				"	"	"	Neg.	Neg			"
7	Mr. A S. ..	"	Pos.			"	Neg.						"
8	Master R. M	"				"	"						
9	Mrs. C. ..	Jan. 28						"					
10	Miss A. M...	Jan. 29					"						
11	Mr. G. S. ..	"						"					
12	Master F. J.	"				"	"						
13	W. S , sen. (Bailiff)	Jan. 30			Neg.	"		"	"				
14	Miss D. C.	"	Pos.			Pos.	Pos.	"	Pos.	Pos.	Neg.	Neg.	"
15	Mr. J. C. .. (Milker)	"	Neg.			Neg.	Neg.	"	"	Neg	"	"	"
16	Miss J. G. ...	"				Pos.	"	"					"
17	Mr. H. C. ... (Milker)	Jan. 31	Pos.			Neg.	"	"	Neg.				"
18	Miss P. ..	Feb. 1				"	"						
19	Mrs. D. ..	"				"	"						
20	Mr. J. ..	Feb. 4				Pos.	"	"					"
21	Mr. P. ...	Feb. 6				"	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.		"	"

Release of the Milk.

On February 17 the question of releasing the milk was discussed, and it was decided to permit the distribution of the milk subject to certain safeguards :

(a) The continued use of the wholesome water for the washing of milk utensils.

(b) The suspension from duty for an indefinite period of the boy who delivered the milk: he was still excreting organisms on February 16 (Case 6).

(c) Scrupulous attention to personal cleanliness by the bailiff and his two milkers.

(d) Further examinations of the faeces of the bailiff and the

two milkers at weekly intervals. The bailiff (Case 13) and Case 15 had been consistently negative. With regard to Case 17, two negatives had succeeded the positive of February 4.

(e) The households taking the milk to be kept under observation.

It is particularly fortunate that (c) and (d) were insisted upon, because on February 28 one of the milkers (Case 15) was found to be excreting the Sonne organism. He was therefore prohibited from handling milk. Following negatives on March 7 and 21 he was allowed to resume work.

The Origin of the Outbreak.

Though it seems clear that the outbreak was milk-borne, it is not clear as to the manner in which the milk became contaminated. On the one hand, it is possible that the polluted water which was used for washing the milk utensils was at fault. On the other hand, the milk might have been contaminated by one of the farm servants who handled it. There was, however, no history of any previous attack, and all of them were affected in this outbreak. The boy who delivered the milk can be excluded because he had not been connected in any way with the milk supply of three of the infected households.

Summary.

An outbreak of Sonne dysentery due to contaminated milk has been described. About a quarter only of the persons exposed to infection suffered.

It was not found possible to determine the source of the contamination.

Administrative action was followed by a prompt cessation of the outbreak, except for two "secondary" cases.

The outbreak demonstrates the importance of repeated examination of the faeces of those infected if secondary cases are not to occur through a person's ignorance of the fact that he is still excreting the organism long after he appears to have recovered.

It also shows that it is particularly important during an outbreak of this type that repeated examinations should be made in the case of persons actually handling milk, and that they should be scrupulous in their personal cleanliness.

Our thanks are due to Dr. J. H. Cooke of the Preston Royal Infirmary, and Mr. J. R. Stubbs, the County Analyst, for carrying out the bacteriological and water examinations.

OUTBREAK OF PARATYPHOID B.

at Catforth in the Preston Rural District.

On the 27th June, 1938, the Medical Officer of Health of the Preston Rural District Council received notifications in respect of three cases of Paratyphoid Fever in the township of Catforth in the Preston Rural District. The diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically. The cases were admitted to hospital immediately and the outbreak was investigated.

The three cases occurred in one household, which consisted of husband aged 40 years, wife aged 43 years, son aged 13 years, and daughter aged 8 years. Only the son escaped. The husband was employed as a builder's labourer, the wife as housewife, while the two children attended school. The husband and daughter had commenced to be ill on the 19th June and the wife on the 23rd June.

No other cases had been reported in the district and none in the area of adjoining authorities.

It seemed clear that the three members of the family had become infected simultaneously.

The investigation was particularly directed towards the following matters—water supply, food supply, excrement and refuse disposal, and the journeys made by members of the family.

The water supply was from the Fylde Water Board and examination of recent bacteriological and chemical analyses showed it to be satisfactory.

The food supply was from several sources but none could be incriminated. Bearing in mind the part played in the past by milk, ice-cream, duck eggs, and bread as vehicles in the spread of Paratyphoid Fever, detailed enquiries were made about these. With regard to the milk supply, which was produced at a local farm, enquiries were made as to the method of production, the health of those handling the milk, and the health of all the consumers of the milk. The only facts of importance to emerge were that water from a well was being used to wash milking utensils, and that this water was quite unfit for human and domestic use. The character of the outbreak, however, negatives any suggestion that milk contaminated by impure water was to blame.

Only two journeys had been made by the family. On the 6th June the whole family visited a Fair at Preston, but did not partake of any food away from home, with the exception that the son, who did not develop Paratyphoid Fever, had an ice-cream. On the 11th June, the whole family spent the night with friends at Kirkham. Enquiries made by the Medical Officer of Health of Kirkham, at the request of the Medical Officer of Health of the Preston Rural District Council, showed that there were no illnesses of a suggestive nature in Kirkham.

With regard to excrement and refuse removal; in the immediate neighbourhood of the outbreak, removal is effected by the householders themselves by the simple process of burying. This rendered an investigation into the possibility of seepage necessary, but none could be found.

An interesting point which emerged during the investigations was that a near neighbour of the affected family had suffered from "typhoid fever" as a boy. In view of this proximity and the possibility of his being a carrier, bacteriological examinations of his urine and faeces were carried out, but with negative result.

Appropriate action was taken with regard to disinfection of house, utensils and bedding. The pail closet was disinfected and replaced by a new one, and all foul parts of the closet structure and surrounding ground liable to contamination were suitably treated.

The outbreak described above was of very limited extent and remained so. No secondary cases occurred.

The early recognition of the condition enabled appropriate steps to be taken much sooner than is usual in these cases. The source of the infection was not discovered.

It will be appreciated that this short account of the outbreak gives little idea of the amount of work entailed in an investigation of this type.

It is interesting to note that a case of Paratyphoid B. also occurred in Poulton-le-Fylde about the 20th June, but the condition was not diagnosed until the second week of July. There was, however, no possible connection between this case and the Catforth cases.

Pathological Department,
Royal Infirmary,
Preston,
Tel. 2296.

Ref. H38/699.
Referred by : Dr. C. J. Trimble.
Received : 28th June, 1938.

Moss House Farm, Catforth.

Sample of water from pump in farm yard.

Water, when received, contained a marked brown deposit.

Bacterial colonies per C.C. :

Agar 37°C.	48 hours	4460
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Presumptive B. coli :

Calculated No. of organisms coli-aerogenes				
group per 100 c.c.	900

These results indicate a marked degree of pollution, and that the water is unfit for human and domestic use.

(Signed), F. B. SMITH,

1st July, 1938.

Pathologist.

Pathological Department,
Royal Infirmary,
Preston,
Tel. 2296.

Ref. H38/718.
Referred by : Dr. C. J. Trimble.
Received : 5th July, 1938.

Sample of water taken from pump in farm yard, Moss House Farm, Catforth, at 3 p.m.

Bacterial colonies per C.C. :

Agar 37°C.	48 hours	4550
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Presumptive B. coli :

Calculated No. of organisms coli-aerogenes				
group per 100 c.c.	1800

Similar result to that of 30th June, and bears similar significance.

No. *B. paratyphosus* B. could be isolated however.

(Signed), F. B. SMITH,

8th July, 1938.

Pathologist.

County Laboratory,
County Offices,
Preston,
13th July, 1938.

Ref. W., 1281.

To Dr. C. J. Trimble,
Medical Officer of Health,
Preston R.D.C.

I have examined the sample of Water received on the 28th June, 1938, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000.

Sample of Water from Moss House Farm, Catforth.

Mark or denomination of Sample	...	No. 1
Total Solids in Solution	... ..	56.8
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 minutes	... ..	0.031
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	... ..	0.062
Ammonia	... ..	0.050
Albuminoid	... ..	0.009
Nitrogen as Nitrates	... ..	0.017
„ as Nitrites	... ..	0.0014
Combined Chlorine	... ..	1.75

The chemical analysis indicates that this water is quite unfit for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed), J. R. STUBBS,
County Analyst.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

Inspections	3062
Re-inspections	1002
Other visits	1376
Informal Notices served	147
Statutory Notices served.....	1

Infectious Diseases.

Disinfection has been carried out in the following cases of infectious diseases :—

Cancer death.....	1
Diphtheria.....	10
Erysipelas	2
Haemolyptic Streptococci Throat	1
On request after death.....	2
Paratyphoid fever.....	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Scarlet Fever	72
Suspected Typhoid	2
Tuberculosis deaths	6
Tuberculosis removals	11

Broughton Grammar School was fumigated owing to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the vicinity. One house fumigated for vermin. St. Mary's Church Hall, Goosnargh, was fumigated prior to a Jumble Sale.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Pails converted into W.C's.	55
„ New W.C's.	424
This figure includes the W.C's. provided at new houses erected during the year.	
„ New closet pails provided.....	7

Scavenging.

17 parishes of the Rural Area are now scavenged. 2 Parishes having a weekly collection of bin refuse and 15 fortnightly. All Parishes have a weekly collection of Pails. The work is carried out by direct labour, three 30 cwt. Ford Loaders, and Karrier Colt and one Karrier Bantam are employed in the collection. We have also a spare Karrier Colt in case of breakdown.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. Five tips are in operation and trained men are employed to carry out the work.

I give below details of the work for the year 1937 :—

Number of houses cleared	8108
Number of loads to tips	3567
Estimated weight of refuse removed, in tons.	6700
Number of miles covered in collection.....	35543
Petrol used in gallons	4336

In June, 1938, the Townships of Dutton, Goosnargh, Samlesbury and Woodplumpton were included in the scheme.

Other Sanitary Defects dealt with.

Dampness	4
Defective ceilings	5
Defective Closet Pails	7
Defective floors.....	4
Defective gutters	10
Defective paving	4
Defective pointing	11
Defective roofs	9
Defective sink waste pipes	10
Defective walls	9
Defective woodwork.....	16
Dirty condition of premises.....	2
Ditches requiring cleansing.....	14
Insanitary ashpits.....	95
Insanitary Drainage.....	31
Miscellaneous	11
Ventilation	4
Want of ashtins	42

Sewerage.

The following extensions of sewers have been carried out :—

4 inch sewer	Nil.
6 „ „	521 yards
9 „ „	1702 „

In addition, the following lengths of water courses and ditches have been piped :—

9 inch pipes	40 yards.
12 „ „	150 „
18 „ „	25 „
36 „ „	230 „

Factories and Workshops.

There are 101 Factories and Workshops on the Registers, and their condition is satisfactory. 33 Inspections have been made. No notices served.

Bakehouses.

There are 25 Bakehouses on the Register. Frequent visits are made to these places and they are on the whole kept clean. 25 notices to hot lime-wash have been served.

Canal Boats Acts.

4 Canal Boats have been inspected and each was found to comply in all respects with the regulations.

Petroleum Acts.

There have been 89 new licences granted for storing petrol during the year.

Shops Act, 1934.

There have been 4 inspections under the above Act. and all were found to comply with the Sanitary Provisions over which the Council have jurisdiction.

Anthrax.

Seven cases were notified :—

- 1 case at Catforth.
- 1 case at Grimsargh.
- 1 case at Hutton.
- 1 case at Little Hoole.
- 1 case at Penwortham.
- 1 case at Samlesbury.
- 1 case at Whittingham.

The premises were visited, and in each case the burning of the carcase and disinfection under Police supervision was found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Swine Fever.

Two cases were notified, both of which were at Woodplumpton.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk supply—Action taken with regard to :—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915; the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. The following samples of milk were taken and subjected to the minut sediment test for dirt with the following results :—

No. of samples taken	.....	322
„ „ found to be clean	.....	233
„ „ „ very slightly contaminated		41
„ „ „ slightly contaminated		30
„ „ „ dirty	.....	18

Milk from Schools.

The following samples were taken and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory at the Preston Royal Infirmary :—

76 samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Results. 3 positive, 73 negative.

The County Medical Officer of Health was notified of the positive results.

In addition to the above, the County Public Health Department received 48 Notifications, in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural District. In accordance with Part IV of the Agriculture Act, 1937, the information was passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned. As a result of the investigations, 43 cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

50 samples have been taken from retailers in the district for the presence of B. Coli and tubercle bacilli.

Results. The B. Coli content ranged from absent in 1c.c. to present in .001 c.c.

Two positive, 48 negative. The positive results was notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Slaughter Houses and Inspections.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 :—

42 licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

We have 2 registered and 10 licensed slaughter houses, and all are in good order.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations we received 315 notices of intention to slaughter, and inspected the following animals :—

Cattle	460
Sheep	1283
Pigs	3250
Goats	1
	<hr/>
	4994
	<hr/>

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Tuberculosis—43 beasts heads
78 beasts plucks

Tuberculosis.—445 pigs' heads.
 250 pigs' plucks
 22 beasts' livers.
 1 beast flank and skirt.
 3 brisket of beef
 4 forequarters of beef.
 1 flank of pork.
 1 ham and loin of pork.
 2 hindquarters of pig and organs.
 1 side of pork
 2 whole carcasses of beasts and all organs
 6 whole carcasses of pigs and all organs.

Other Diseases.—1 beast's kidneys for nephritis
 1 beasts' liver for abscess.
 1 beasts' liver for echinococcus cyst.
 5 beasts' livers for cirrhosis
 2 beasts' livers for flukes.
 1 beasts' liver for jaundice.
 3 beasts' livers for necrosis.
 2 beasts' livers for parasites.
 2 beasts' livers for tumours.
 2 hindquarters of beef for bruising and
 bad bleeding.
 2 hindquarters of beef for metritis.
 1 side of beef for bruising.
 1 pigs carcase for fevered flesh.
 1 pigs carcase for peritonitis.
 7 pigs' carcasses and all organs for swine
 erysipelas.
 6 pigs' plucks for cirrhosis.
 50 pigs' plucks for pericarditis.
 1 pigs' plucks for pneumonia.
 1 sheep liver for cirrhosis.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned=4 tons 12 cwt.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

We have 647 farms on our registers, and 119 registered retail purveyors. There have been 779 inspections under the above Order and 49 notices have been served.

Sewage Disposal Works.

There are five disposal works in the Rural Area, and everything is being done to maintain them in a satisfactory manner.

Grimsargh.

Mr. H. B. Ward, Consulting Engineer, of Liverpool, has completed the preparation of a Scheme for this Parish, and on the completion of certain formalities it will be ready for submission to the Ministry.

Lea.

Mr. Ward is at present engaged in preparing a Scheme to deal with the sewage of this Parish.

Longton, Hutton, etc.

The Scheme which was prepared some years ago is still in abeyance, but has been re-considered during the year, when the necessity for proceeding was stressed, but owing to the International situation it was felt that the time was not opportune to proceed.

Town Planning.

The Rural District is situate within the area of two Regional Town Planning Committees. The parishes of Ribchester, Hother-sall and Dutton being in the area of the North East (Region No. 1) Joint Town Planning Committee, and the remainder of the Rural District is that of the Preston and District Regional Joint Town Planning Committee.

Interim Development Order, 1933.

373 applications to develop have been considered during the year with the following results :—

Permission granted	...	...	...	292
Permission granted subject to conditions...				63
Refused	...	...	...	18

It will be seen that there has been considerable activity in this department, and the small percentage of refusals is largely due to the applicants obtaining information before the submission of plans.

The two Regional schemes have made considerable progress during the year. The Joint Committee and the Officer's Sub-Committee have met regularly.

Parks and Playing Fields.

There has been considerable activity in this department during the year.

The following sites have been officially opened :

Barton	...	...	5 acres
Broughton	...	...	5 „
Queensway	...	...	5 „
Farington Lodge	...	...	5.5 „
			<hr/>
			20.5 acres
			<hr/>

The following sites have been acquired during the year:—

Lea ...	...	...	16·5	acres
Grimsargh ...	...	...	12·344	„
Penwortham Hall		...	18·432	„
Longton West...		...	6·208	„
Additional Land Farington				
Lodge ...	...	...	5·0	„
			<hr/>	
			58·484	acres
			<hr/>	

Tenders have been accepted for the erection of equipment on the following fields, but this has not yet been fixed:—

Penwortham Hall	New Longton
Little Hoole	Longton West
Much Hoole	

Tenders have been accepted for the erection of conveniences on the following fields, but these have not yet been commenced:—

Penwortham Hall	Longton West
Little Hoole	Grimsargh
Much Hoole	Lea
New Longton	Tardy Gate

Negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of the following :—

Land off Cop Lane	...	3·5	acres
Land at Hutton...	...	6·75	„
Land at Woodplumpton	...	6·574	„
		<hr/>	
		16·824	acres
		<hr/>	

making a total of approximately 108 acres of land reserved as public open space in the Rural area.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Building Inspector.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1938.

The table below shows the number and situation of new houses, which were erected :—

Parish.				Dwelling houses erected.
Barton	...	...	...	9
Farington	...	...	...	18
Goosnargh	...	...	...	1
Grimsargh	...	...	...	9
Hutton	...	..	...	10
Lea	...	...	...	92
Little Hooile	...	...	...	1
Longton	...	...	...	7
Penwortham	...	...	...	208
Ribchester	...	...	...	2
Samlesbury	...	...	...	4
Whittingham	...	...	...	2
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	6
TOTAL				369

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of the above houses :—

Inspection of Site	...	...	543
Inspection of Foundations	...	...	353*
Inspection of Drains	...	...	774
Inspection on Completion	...	...	370
Total			2040

* This figure is below the number of houses erected, but is accounted for by the fact that most of the houses are either in pairs or blocks.

H. COLLIER,

Building Inspector.

Report on Water Supply.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural
District Council.*

Gentlemen,

During the year 1938 the number of connections show a decrease, and the number of extensions an increase compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures :

Connections	1937—	423 yards
„	1938—	329 „
Extension of Mains	1937—1971	„
„ „ „	1938—	4152 „

The number of houses supplied with water during the year 1938 is as follows :—

Farington	...	...	...	18
Hutton	...	...	...	9
Lea...	...	...	...	78
Longton	...	...	...	8
Much Hoole	...	...	...	1
Penwortham	...	...	...	207
Ribchester	...	...	...	3
Samlesbury	...	...	...	7

In addition to the above, connections have been made to the following :—

Farington	...	1 Trough
Hutton	...	2 Troughs
Much Hoole	...	1 Tap for Poultry, 1 Tap for Garage
Ribchester	...	1 Tap at Memorial.

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows :—

Farington	... Hope Terrace	... 119 yards of 3" Iron.
	Stanley Avenue	... 42 „ 3" „
	Off Wheelton Lane	... 400 „ 3" „
	Carr Lane	} ... 420 „ 4" „
	Wheelton Lane	

Goosnargh	...Sea View	...106	„	3" Iron
	Sea View	...226	„	4" „
Hutton	...Birchfield Avenue	... 52	„	3" Iron
	Off Liverpool Road	12	„	3" „
	Saunders Lane	...620	„	6" „
Lea	...Aldwych Drive	... 30	„	3" „
	Off Blackpool Road	...106	„	3" „
	(Relaid) Elm Avenue	...100	„	3" „
	Kingsway	... 52	„	3" „
	Victoria Park Avenue	...109	„	3" „
Little Hoole	...Knoll Lane	...200	„	3" Iron
Longton	...Shirley Lane	... 40	„	3" Everite
Penwortham	...Bishopway	... 12	yards of 3" Iron.	
	Carlisle Avenue	... 34	„	3" „
	Chesmere Drive	... 64	„	3" „
	Howick Park Close	...198	„	3" „
	Liverpool Road	...350	„	3" „
	Priory Crescent	... 52	„	3" „
	Queensway	...142	„	3" „
	Studholme Crescent	... 27	„	3" „
	Talbot Road	... 27	„	3" „
	The Avenue	... 60	„	3" „
	Howick Park Avenue	... 40	„	3" Everite
	Park Road	... 40	„	3" „
	Clovelly Drive	... 95	„	4" Iron
	Howick Park Avenue	...266	„	4" „

SUMMARY.

Townships.	3in. Iron. Yards.	4in. Iron. Yards.	6in. Iron. Yards.	3in. Everite. Yards.	Grand Total Yards.
Farington ...	552	520	...	...	1072
Goosnargh ...	106	226	...	...	332
Hutton ...	64	...	620	...	684
Lea ...	397	...	...	...	397
Little Hoole...	220	...	...	...	220
Longton ...	...	..	...	40	40
Penwortham	966	361	...	80	1407
	2305	1107	620	120	4152

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer.

SUMMARY.

Statistics, 1938.

(See body of Report)

1.—Social Conditions of the Area.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :

The social conditions do not alter nor do the occupations of the resident population. There are a few cotton mills left. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions. There is considerable industry in market gardening.

Extent of unemployment : No definite figures as to unemployment, but in the old cotton areas there must be many out of work.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—All employment available is of a healthy character. There is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health of children and adults.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults—There is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health of children or adults.

2.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority—

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. C. J. Trimble.

Is he a whole or part time Officer of the local authority—Part time.

Any other public appointments held by him?—M.O.H. of Fulwood Urban District Council.

Is he in private practice?—No.

Sanitary Inspectors—Harry Collier, Sydney Charles Whitehead and James Frederick Hayhurst.

Are they whole or part time Officers?—Whole.

Any other Specialised Inspector (e.g. Food Inspector)?—No.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, &c.—None.

Ambulance facilities :—

(a) For infectious cases—Isolation Hospital.

(b) Non-infectious and accident cases—Preston County Borough,

(c) Maternity patients—Preston County Borough. All conveyed by motor

Is there in your district :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; Ante-natal Clinic; Day Nursery; School Clinic; Orthopædic Clinic; Artificial Light Clinic. Provided for in County Schemes.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for?—

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children?—No.

Health Education :—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment? (*e.g.*, health week, special lectures, &c.)—Lectures by County staff.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water supply—Authority from which supply obtained—Preston Corporation, Manchester Corporation, Fylde Water Board, Fulwood U.D.C.

Nature of supply—(*e.g.*, moorland, deep wells, &c.)—Moorland.

Is supply satisfactory? (*a*) in quality—Yes; (*b*) in quantity—Yes.

Constant or intermittent—Constant.

Approx. No. of dwelling houses with piped supplies (public and private)—(*a*) direct from mains—9191. (*b*) by stand pipe—Nil.

Possibilities of contamination—None.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination—Action when necessary.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action?—No.

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year?—

Bacteriological examinations—1. Result, satisfactory.

Chemical analyses—1. Result, satisfactory.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, &c.—324.

Have these waters been examined during the year?—Bacteriological examinations. Chemical analyses. See body of Report.

Drainage and Sewerage—Sewage disposal works, method of treatment :

Outfall works at Farington, Ribchester, Penwortham, Grimsargh, and a small outfall works at Broughton. In the above Parishes we have the combined system and in the other Parishes a septic tank is provided for each house.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system?—Nil. Certain townships under consideration.

Areas, or Townships without proper drainage system, and reason therefor—Some townships south of the Ribble.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, &c.—Carried out when and where necessary.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken to check the pollution of streams—Supervised by the Ribble Joint Committee.

Closet accommodation at the end of 1938 :—

Privy middens: No. of middens—1,198. No. of closets attached to these middens—1,198 Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres? No. Only in scattered areas. No. of pail closets—1095. No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 136. No. of movable ashbins—7,960. No. of houses on water carriage system—7,234. No. of fresh water closets, 6,980.—No. of waste water closets—254.

Conversions—		During year 1938.	During 5 years 1933—1937.
No. of privy closets	{ To fresh w.c.s' ...	—	24
	{ To waste w.c.'s...	—	—
	{ To pails, &c. ...	—	—
No. of pail closets	{ To fresh w.c.'s ...	55	704
	{ To waste w.c.'s...	—	—
No. of waste w.c's. to fresh w.c's. ...		—	—
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		95	741

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Yes, in the Parish of Ribchester.

Does Council contribute to cost of conversion?—Yes; if so, how much?—Half the cost.

Public Cleansing :—

(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse—Weekly collection in some parishes; fortnightly others.

(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies: Privies every three months. Pail closets weekly.

(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse—Controlled tipping.

(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies—Spreading on land.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by public authority, contract, or occupiers of houses.—Scavenging carried out by direct labour.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements?—The townships of Dutton, Goosnargh, Woodplumpton, and Samlesbury have been included in this scheme.

Are motor vehicles used?—Yes.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—By day in winter, night in summer.

Do the Sanitary Inspectors supervise the scavenging?—Yes.

Sanitary inspections during 1938—

No. of premises visited—3,062.

Defects or nuisances—No. discovered, 765. No. abated, 737.

No. of notices served: Informal, 147. Statutory, 1.

Legal proceedings—No. 2—Result: Convictions:—

(1) Fined and order made for work to be done.

(2) Order for work to be done and costs.

Shops and Offices—Particulars of any action taken under provisions of:

(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences—Regular inspections.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, *i.e.*, ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.—Four inspections have been made and all premises were found to be satisfactory.

Smoke abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—No special action.

No. of factory and works chimneys in the district—21.

What is the time limit allowed per hour for the emission of black smoke?—Two minutes per half-hour.

Swimming Baths and Pools—No such baths in the area. One privately owned at Hutton Grammar School.

Eradication of bed bugs—

Particulars of action taken during 1938—

Number of houses found to be infested:—

(a) Council houses—Nil. (b) Other houses—1.

Number of houses disinfested:—

(a) Council houses—Nil. (b) Other houses—1.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs—
Service of notice on occupier.

State name of fumigant and/or insecticide used, and efficiency—thereof—Additional fumigation carried out by sulphur.

Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses—Inspection and if found necessary bedding, furniture, &c., disinfected in transit.

Is work of disinfection carried out by local authority or by a Contractor?—Contractor.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing—Nil.

Schools—

(a). Sanitary Condition—Satisfactory. (b). Water Supply—Satisfactory.

Workshops and workplaces—Number on register, 101—What is their condition?—Satisfactory.

Tents, vans, sheds, &c.—Action taken—Inspection and necessary action.—Are they adequate?—Yes

Underground Sleeping Rooms—Any need for regulations?—No.

Canal Boats—Number inspected—4. Number of infringements of Acts—Nil.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—

No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold—Nil.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1938—The conversion of pails to water carriage system in the Parishes of Farington, Penwortham and Ribchester. Playing fields.

Chief sanitary requirements of the district—The sewerage of unsewered areas.

4.—Housing.

(For Statistics see body of Report.)

General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :—The housing condition is for a rural area generally good.

Sufficiency of supply of houses—(a) Extent of shortage, if any—None known, private enterprise provides sufficient houses.

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated—Erecting of 18 houses at Longton, both for re-housing slum clearance and overcrowding.

Fitness of houses.—(a) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply—324 (b) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation—2293. This figure includes all pail and privy closets in the district.

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915; The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922; and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926—322 samples of milk taken for dirt test, the results being: 233 clean, 41 very slightly contaminated, 30 slightly contaminated and 18 dirty. Bacteriological examination—50 samples have been taken from retailers in the district. The B. Coli content ranged from absent in 1 c.c. to present in .001 c.c. The tubercle bacilli results: 2 positive, 48 negative. 76 samples have been taken from schools and examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli: results, 3 positive 73 negative. The County M.O.H. was notified of the positive results in each case. In addition to the above, the County Public Health Department received 48 notifications, in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural District. In accordance with Part IV of the Agricultural Act, 1937, the information was passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned. As a result of the investigations 43 cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" milk—6 dealers' licences.

Method used for the pasteurisation of milk ("flash" or "holding")
No pasteurisation plant in area.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops: Are they periodically inspected?—
Yes. How often?—Constantly. What is their condition?
Satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) further works on the ground that the required alterations afforded an opportunity for the remodelling of cowsheds?—Yes, following applications to be placed on accredited Roll.

Farms: No. of dairy farms—647. Approximate number of cows in the district—12,251.

Cowkeepers: No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) 647.

Number of inspections during the year—779.

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)—119.

Action taken by the local authority as to Tuberculous milk:—

Number of samples submitted for biological test—50. Result Positive—2. Negative—48. Bacteriological examinations—Standard adopted—Methylene blue reaction.

No. of samples 50. No. satisfactory 27. No. unsatisfactory—23.

Sediment tests—No. of samples 322. No. satisfactory 233. No. unsatisfactory—Very slightly contaminated 41. Slightly contaminated 30. Dirty 18.

Meat and other foods—

(1) Action taken with regard to meat and other food, including inspection of slaughter houses, meat shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared—Under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. 315 Notices of intention to slaughter have been received and 4994 carcasses inspected.

(2) Inspection of meat. (See Sanitary Inspector's report, page 58.)

Has a public slaughter house been provided—No.

Private slaughter houses—No. registered 2. No licensed 10.

Bakehouses: 24. Condition—Generally very clean.

Adulteration, &c.—Action taken in respect of Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—Controlled by the Lancashire County Council.

6.—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :—

For smallpox—Fylde, Preston and Garstang Joint Hospital Committee. Where situate—Elswick.

For other infectious diseases—Preston, Fulwood and Longridge Joint Hospital. No. of beds—32. Where situate—Fulwood.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment?—No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease—

Cost per patient, year ended 31st March, 1939—£16, inclusive of overhead charges. (Total cost to the Council.)

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage?—No special action.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever?—Yes; or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home? Some cases where there are no other children in the family, the patient is nursed at home.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?—No. or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough?—No hospital provision for these cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin : Notes on the supply and prompt use—Promptly used. Supply depot in Preston and at the Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia, malaria and dysentery—Experience in regard to these cases—One outbreak of Sonne dysentery reported on
(See appendix.)

Pathological and bacteriological examinations—At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Preston Royal Infirmary.

Disinfection after infectious disease :—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1938—109. Method : Formalin tablets—gaseous.

Are houses disinfected after (*a*) pulmonary tuberculosis?—Always.
(*b*) Measles—No, except by request.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise)—Steam disinfectors.

No. of Articles disinfected—By arrangement with Preston C.B.

Where is apparatus situate?—Fulwood P.A. Institution.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

June, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938,
for the Rural District of Preston, on the administration of the
Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	None.	None.	None.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	33	26	None.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	None.	None.	None.
Total	33	26	None.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	25	25	—	—
Other nuisances	1	1	—	—
Total	26	26	—	—

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1939.

